

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

The very concept of such a flag is for the purpose of interfering with making copies for personal use. The only way to prevent such interference is to strike down this proposal.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices? This is more a question of implementation of the standards than the concept of the standard itself. If the broadcast flag is removed from the signal at the point of demodulation, there should be no interference. However, I don't foresee equipment manufacturers doing this. Since this is a copy-protection scheme, I fully expect manufacturers to enforce the interference.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

At the very least, older digital equipment would have to have a firmware upgrade to recognize the new protocols. If there is a "filler" or "reserved" section in the current protocol, and the new flag is place there, the new protocol would work seamlessly on older equipment. If other changes, such as encryption, are added, it would make older equipment useless.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

I must answer a resounding yes. Only, it is not the entertainment industry's equipment that will be hindered. Consumer products unrelated to the entertainment industry will be hindered. Of consumer PCs, amateur radio equipment, home studios, etc. many will be classified as illegal because of their potential ability to circumvent the copy protection. This proposal must not be accepted if our innovation is to continue.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

Whether the flag itself adds any cost to producing the equipment is irrelevant. Manufacturers will find this a good time and good excuse to increase markup and increase profits, and consumers will keep on buying at higher prices thinking they don't have a choice. This is not a good thing.

Our entire society is based on free choice. This proposal limits that in many ways.

#### Other Comments:

As a radio amateur, I enjoy experimenting with many different modes of communication. While I personally do not own an amateur TV station, I know many who do. This broadcast flag, in combination with other existing laws, would make almost any form of amateur digital receiving equipment illegal. The entertainment and communications industries owe a great deal to the innovations developed by amateur radio, yet they would tie our hands behind our backs to their own detriment. For the sake of our freedom, please do not approve this proposal.